



# countdown

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## STS-124 payload arrives at launch pad for installation

## June ELV launch to study sea surface height



### ◆ Shuttle

**Update:** Tuesday evening the payload for the STS-124 mission was transported to Launch Pad 39A in

the payload canister (see below). The Japanese Experiment Module - Pressurized Module and the Japanese Remote Manipulator System, or RMS, were transferred into the payload changeout room on the rotating service structure. After space shuttle Discovery's rollout to the pad on Saturday, the pressurized module and RMS will be installed in the payload bay.



**Did You Know?** The NASA Exchange retail stores are now carrying Darden Restaurant gift cards. Darden restaurants include Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze and Smokey Bones. Gift cards come in increments of \$10 and \$25.

◆ **ELV Update:** The second of NASA's ELV launches in 2008 will be the OSTM/Jason-2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The OSTM, or Ocean Topography Mission, on the Jason-2 satellite, a follow-on to Jason-1, arrived Tuesday at Vandenberg for prelaunch processing.

The OSTM will take oceanographic studies of sea surface height into an operational mode for continued climate forecasting research and science and industrial applications.

The OSTM is a joint effort by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA, France's Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales and the European Meteorological Satellite Organisation.

The spacecraft will be launched aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta II 7320 from Vandenberg on June 15. The Delta 2 first stage was erected on Space Launch Complex 2 on April 25.

■ **STS-123 Crew Return Presentation May 8** — All employees are invited to welcome the crew of STS-123 back to KSC! Having completed their record-breaking 16-day mission, Commander Dominic Gorie and other crew members will share personal stories, photos and videos of their challenging journey. The STS-123 crew return presentation will be held at 2:30 p.m. May 8 in the fifth floor conference room of the OSB II

(across from the VAB). Please arrive early as seating is on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions, please contact Layla Higgins at [layla.m.higgins@nasa.gov](mailto:layla.m.higgins@nasa.gov) or 867-7711.

■ **Reminder** — KSC is marking this year's National Day of Prayer **today** at 11 a.m. with an observance in the KSC Training Auditorium. Employees are invited to attend, sing and pray for our country and the space program. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Markowski at 867-0829.

■ **Temporary Building Closure** — The Reutilization, Recycling and Marketing Facility will be closed during a changeover to a new disposal system. The facility will not accept deliveries of excess property between Friday and May 18 to allow time for all current property to be checked in and records uploaded. Normal operations will resume May 19. If you have any questions, please contact Pauletta McGinnis, NASA Property Disposal officer, at 867-7027.

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